
Australian National Summit on Open Access to Public Sector Information

*Queensland University of Technology
Brisbane, Australia
13 July 2007*

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Open Access to Public Sector Information

Compelling reasons for placing government-generated data and information in the public domain or under common-use conditions:

- **Legal.** A government entity needs no legal incentives from exclusive property rights to create information. Both the activities that the government undertakes and the information produced by it in the course of those activities are a [global] public good.
 - **Socioeconomic.** Many economic and non-economic positive externalities. Network effects can be realized on an exponential basis through the open dissemination of data and information online.
 - **Ethical.** The public has already paid for the production of the information. Burden of additional access fees falls disproportionately on the individuals least able to pay.
 - **Political.** Transparency of governance is undermined by restricting citizens from access to and use of public data and information. Rights of freedom of expression and information are compromised by restrictions on re-dissemination of public information, particularly of factual data.
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Open Access to Public Sector Information

Legitimate restrictions on the public's access to PSI

- National security and public safety
 - Personal privacy
 - Confidentiality
 - Respecting proprietary rights of private-sector parties
 - Not competing directly with the private sector
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Open Access to Public Sector Information

Preliminary OECD Principles for Access to and Reuse of PSI:

- **Openness**
 - **Access**
 - **Electronic access**
 - **Digitisation**
 - **Quality**
 - **Skills**
 - **Standardisation**
 - **New technologies**
 - **Transparency and inventory**
 - **Non-capture**
 - **International access and use**
 - **Pricing**
 - **Intellectual property rights**
 - **Redress**
 - **Public private partnerships**
 - **Best practices**
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Open Access to Public Sector Information

Statement of Task for US CODATA and OECD Workshop:

- 1. Why is a better understanding of the specific economic and non-economic values and effects of policies of access to and reuse of PSI important? What could be done to improve knowledge of these issues?**
 - 2. What is the state-of-the-art in different approaches for studying and evaluating the direct and indirect economic and non-economic costs and benefits of access and reuse policies for PSI in the online environment? Define the underlying concepts and survey the literature about these policies and assessment methods.**
 - 3. How have these methods been applied, for what types of information, and by which organizations? What are the commonalities and differences among the various methods in relation to the types of information and policies being assessed?**
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Open Access to Public Sector Information

Statement of Task for US CODATA – OECD Workshop (continued)

- 4. What are the criteria to assess the validity and reliability of such methods? What is known or still needs to be known about the application of these methods to the evaluation of public information policies in the online environment?**
 - 5. Identify a range of best practices, theoretical frameworks, and models that are currently used to assess the economic and non-economic value and effects of different policies of access to and reuse of digital PSI,**
 - 6. Identify a range of activities that might be undertaken by information managers and policy makers in the OECD countries to enhance understanding of the economic and non-economic value and effects of different policies of access to and reuse of digital PSI.**
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